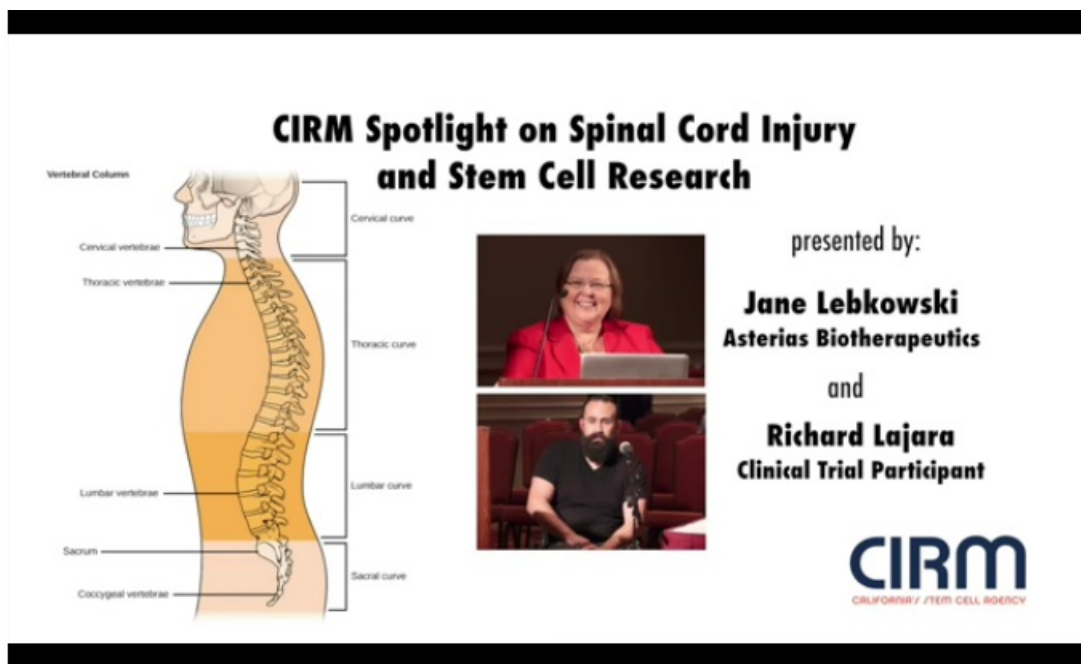


## November 2015 Newsletter

- **CIRM 2.0 Funding Opportunities**
- Video: Update on Stem Cell-Based Spinal Cord Injury Trial
- Join CIRM at AT&T Park for the Bay Area Science Festival!
- Blog Series: Catching up with our CIRM Scholars
- CIRM and the World Celebrate Stem Cell Awareness Day
- Exclusive Interview: Masao Takahashi, iPSC Clinical Trial Pioneer
- From Stem Cells to Cures with Google Ventures & Shinya Yamanaka
- The Latest Publications by CIRM-Funded Researchers
- Upcoming CIRM Events
- CIRM Job Openings

### Video: Update on Stem Cell-Based Spinal Cord Injury Trial



The slide features a diagram of the human spine on the left, with labels for the Vertebral Column, Cervical vertebrae, Thoracic vertebrae, Lumbar vertebrae, Sacrum, and Coccygeal vertebrae. To the right of the diagram are labels for the Cervical curve, Thoracic curve, Lumbar curve, and Sacral curve. In the center, there are two small video thumbnails: the top one shows Jane Lebkowski speaking at a podium, and the bottom one shows Richard Lajara sitting in a chair. To the right of the thumbnails, the text reads: 'presented by: Jane Lebkowski, Asterias Biotherapeutics and Richard Lajara, Clinical Trial Participant'. The CIRM logo is in the bottom right corner.

At the July 23rd CIRM governing Board meeting, Dr. Jane Lebkowski, Asterias Biotherapeutics' VP of R&D, gave a lunch time presentation about the company's CIRM-funded clinical trial for spinal cord injury. Richard Lajara, the fourth participant in a previous trial, provided a patient's perspective.

- Read the blog and watch the video

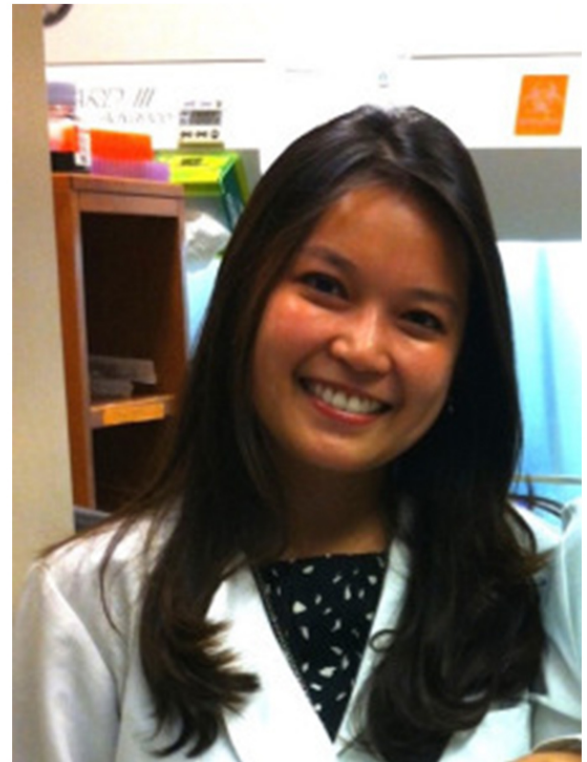
### Join CIRM at AT&T Park for the Bay Area Science Festival!



On November 7th from 10am to 4pm, AT&T Park will host the fifth annual Discovery Day, the final day of the Bay Area Science Festival. Children of all ages, even the grown-up kind, will be able to participate in over 150 hands-on science and engineering activities throughout the stadium. Over 25,000 attendees are anticipated, each with an opportunity to engage with scientists from a wide-range of fields. If you go, visit CIRM's booth, **located at Promenade P50**, for some play dough stem cell fun. And it's all free.

- [Learn more about the event](#)

### Blog Series: Catching Up with our CIRM Scholars

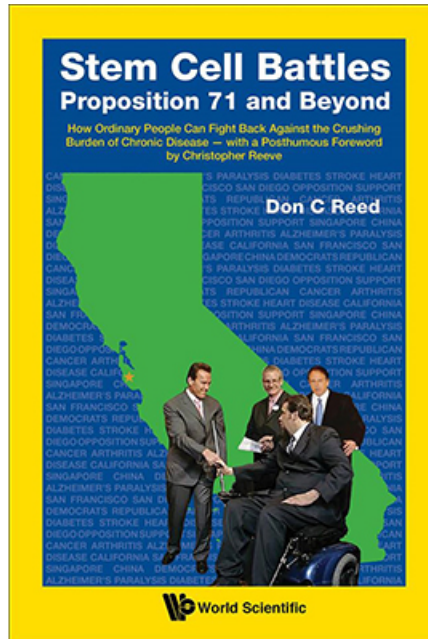


Achieving our mission of accelerating stem cell treatment for patients with unmet medical needs, requires an investment in a trained workforce for California. That's why our highly successful training programs are a source of pride at CIRM. Altogether we've helped thousands of young people pursue their dream of becoming the next generation of stem cell scientists. To follow their achievements, Website and Social Media manager Dr. Karen Ring is catching up with past and present CIRM Scholars through informal interviews which are summarized on CIRM's blog, The Stem Cellar. In October, Dr. Ring spoke with CIRM Scholars Dr. Ke Wei, a postdoc at the

Sanford Burnham Prebys Medical Discovery Institute, and Dr. Helen Fong, a research scientist at the Gladstone Institutes.

- Read Ke Wei's blog interview
- Read Helen Fong's blog interview

## CIRM and the World Celebrate Stem Cell Awareness Day



On October 14th, the world celebrated Stem Cell Awareness Day. The annual event's mission is to engage the public with the stem cell research community. Activities included guest lectures by stem cell scientists in high school classrooms, public tours of state-of-the-art stem cell research facilities and social media campaigns, to name just a few. At CIRM headquarters, stem cell research advocate Don Reed hosted a book reading to celebrate the publication of his book, *STEM CELL BATTLES: Proposition 71 and Beyond*. Through personal stories and firsthand accounts, Reed's book chronicles California's fight against disease through stem cell research.

- Read our blog about Don Reed's book release event
- Read our blog about other Stem Cell Awareness Day events
- See a list of Stem Cell Awareness Day events and next year's date

## Exclusive Interview: Masayo Takahashi, iPSC Clinical Trial Pioneer



In September, Dr. Masayo Takahashi from the RIKEN center in Japan received the inaugural Ogawa-Yamanaka Prize for developing a



human iPS cell therapy to treat a debilitating eye disease called macular degeneration. The event was held locally at the Gladstone Institutes and we were honored to get an exclusive sit down interview with her. We put together a two minute video based on the interview with her as well as with Dr. Deepak Srivastava, Director of the Gladstone Institute of Cardiovascular Disease and Mr. Hiro Ogawa, a co-founder of the Ogawa-Yamanaka Prize.

- Watch a recap video of the interview
- Read our blog about Dr. Takahashi's interview and Ogawa Prize presentation

### From Stem Cells to Cures with Google Ventures & Shinya Yamanaka



In mid-October, two leaders on different sides of the stem cell arena – research and investment – came together at the Gladstone Institutes' Fall Symposium to discuss how stem cell research can be translated into effective cures. Nobel prize winner, Dr. Shinya Yamanaka, and Google Ventures partner and Stanford PhD, Dr. Blake Byers, shared their thoughts on where stem cell research is now and the future of stem cell therapy for treating and curing disease. CIRM's communications team was on hand to blog about the event.

- Read our blog about the symposium with Shinya Yamanaka and Google Ventures

### The Latest Publications by CIRM-Funded Researchers

CIRM grantees are making steady progress on understanding the fundamentals of stem cell biology and moving stem cell-based therapies toward clinical trials. Here are examples of CIRM-funded research that was published in October along with press releases from the grantees' home institution and essays from *The Stem Cellar*, CIRM's official blog:

#### October 8th - *Cell Stem Cell*

- Salk Institute Release: Researchers learn how to grow old brain cells
- CIRM Blog: Keeping elderly cells old to understand the aging process

#### October 14th - *Nature Communications*

- Stanford Release: Sleep deprivation affects stem cells, reducing transplant efficiency
- CIRM Blog: A rested stem cell is a better stem cell

#### October 25th - *Nature*

- UCLA Release: UCLA researchers discover more than 3,000 genes in a little-studied part of the human genome
- CIRM Blog: UCLA Scientists Find 3000 New Genes in "Junk DNA" of Immune Stem Cells

## Upcoming CIRM Events

### November 19th and December 17th: CIRM Board Meetings

The CIRM governing Board will hold a telephonic meeting on Thursday, November 19th and its last in-person meeting of 2015 on Thursday December 17th in Los Angeles, CA. Agendas and details will be posted to the **meetings page** 10 days before each event.

## CIRM 2.0 Funding Opportunities



### Translational:

- Partnering Opportunity for Translational Research Projects [pdf]
- Visit our Translational Programs Page for more information

### Clinical:

- CLIN 1: Partnering opportunity for late stage preclinical projects (formerly PA 15-01) [pdf]
- CLIN 2: Partnering opportunity for clinical trial stage projects (formerly PA 15-02) [pdf]
- CLIN 3: Partnering opportunity for supplemental accelerating activities (formerly PA 15-03) [pdf]
- Visit our Clinical Trial Stage Programs Page for more information

### Education:

- RFA 15-05: Bridges to Stem Cell Research and Therapy Awards program
- RFA 15-06: Summer Program to Accelerate Regenerative Medicine Knowledge (SPARK)

Our Discovery Programs will be announced soon.

Sign up to receive CIRM funding announcements

## CIRM Job Openings

The following positions are now open. Follow the links below to apply or go to our jobs page:

- Science Officer/Senior Science Officer, Discovery Team
- Science Officer/Senior Science Officer, Therapeutics
- Associate Director/Director of Therapeutics
- Grants Management Specialist

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